

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 03237 150824Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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P R 150715Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4594

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T AMMAN 3237

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, UK, JO, MU

SUBJECT: UK-JORDAN DIFFERENCES OVER OMAN

1. AT AIRPORT, JUST PRIOR TO KING'S RETURN MAY 14, UK COLLEAGUE TOLD ME THAT KING FAILED TO MENTION HIS CONCERNS IN LONDON OVER UK ROLE IN OMAN. BRITISH IN AMMAN SAY THEY ARE FED UP WITH JORDANIANS, SINCE KING LIBERALLY LACED INTO AMBASSADOR HERE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS ON UK FAILURE TO PROSECUTE WAR, AND INDEED ON JORDANIAN ALLEGATIONS OF UK MALEVOLENCE IN OMAN, SUBSTANCE OF ALL OF WHICH HAVE BEEN SUBJECT MANY REPORTS FROM US. BRITISH PREPARED SPECIAL MEETING WITH DEFENSE SECRETARY MASON AND NUMBER SPECIALIST ADVISORS TO EXPLAIN TO HIM FACTS OF LIFE ABOUT OMAN, BUT JORDANIANS NEVER RAISED THE ISSUE. APPARENTLY, HOWEVER, PM RIFAI WAS TALKED TO "ON THE SIDE" BY SOME UK OFFICIALS AND GIVEN THEIR VIEW OF THE SITUATION. UK AMBASSADOR DID NOT PASS ON DETAILS, OTHER THAN TO SPECULATE THAT JORDANIAN EFFORT MIGHT WELL BE PLOY TO COVER EARLY REMOVAL OF JORDANIAN SPECIAL FORCES BATTALION WHICH UK EMBASSY IN AMMAN BELIEVES PRIME MINISTER MAY WANT TO PULL BACK BECAUSE OF LOCAL CRITICISM IF ITS DEPLOYMENT. I INDICATED THAT IN OUR VIEW SUCH CRITICISM HAD RECENTLY DIED DOWN AND THAT JORDANIANS SEEMED TO BE MORE INTERESTED IN FIGHTING THE BATTALION THAN IN PULLING IT BACK.

2. RECALL THAT AS RESULT OF WASHINGTON MEETINGS, JORDANIANS ARE UNDER IMPRESSION THAT WE MIGHT RAISE THE QUESTION OF THEIR PROBLEMS WITH UK ROLE IN OMAN WITH BRITISH DURING THEIR

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WASHINGTON VISIT LAST WEEK. NOT IMPOSSIBLE THAT KING WILL ASK

ME WHETHER WE DID INDEED RAISE ISSUE AND WHAT WAS OUTCOME.
WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR INFORMATION ON WHETHER QUESTION WAS
RAISED AND IF SO WHAT WAS RESULT.

3. SUGGEST DEPT REPEAT TO MUSCAT.
PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, MILITARY PLANS, MILITARY POLICIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975AMMAN03237
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750170-0858
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750547/aaaabpul.tel
Line Count: 67
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UK-JORDAN DIFFERENCES OVER OMAN
TAGS: PFOR, US, UK, JO, MU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006